## Patent claims

1. A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone (6, 7), at least one rinsing zone (8, 9) and/or a heat-recovery device (13) and/or a drying zone (11) and/or a suction-extraction means, characterized in that openings (17, 18, 20, 21) for the suction extraction of air from the dishwasher and/or the overall quantity of an exhaust-airstream (24) can be closed and released by means of one or more closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) in dependence on the operating state of individual treatment zones (6, 7, 8, 9, 11) of the dishwasher.

2. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) are designed as pivotable flaps or as slides.

3. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) can be actuated in dependence on the operating state of switched-on or switched-off washing zones (6, 7) and/or rinsing zones (8, 9).

4. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) can be actuated in dependence on capacities of pumps (16) of preliminary rinsing zones (6) or pumps (16) accommodated in washing zones (7).

5. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) can be actuated in dependence on wash ware (1) which is present in the drying zone (11).

6. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capacity of an exhaust-air fan (22) in a heat-recovery device (13) can be controlled in dependence on the operating state of the dishwasher.

7. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) can be controlled in dependence on the position of the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28).

8. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) can be activated directly or indirectly by the wash ware (1) via deflectable lever elements (29, 36).

9. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27, 28) can be actuated electrically, pneumatically or hydraulically in dependence on the operating state of the dishwasher.

10. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) in the heat-recovery device (13) can be varied via a speed-control means in dependence on the operating state of the dishwasher.

11. The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the speed-control means is designed as a frequency converter or by an electric drive of the exhaust-air fan (22) with a multiple coil.

12. A process for operating a conveyor dishwasher as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the suction extraction of air from the conveyor dishwasher takes place in dependence on the operating state of the conveyor dishwasher.

13. The process as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27) are wholly or partially closed when the washing zones (6, 7) are switched off, the rinsing zone is switched off and the drying zone is switched off.

14. The process as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the closing elements (25, 26, 27) are open when the washing zones (6, 7) are switched on, the rinsing zone (8, 9) is switched on and the drying function using the drying zone (11) is switched on.

15. The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that a fourth flap (28), which controls the mixing of ambient air with the overall exhaust-airstream (24), is activated in dependence on the degree of opening of the closing elements (25, 26, 27).

16. The process as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the capacity of the exhaust-air fan (22) of the heat-recovery device (13) is varied in dependence on the opening position of the closing elements (25, 26, 27).